Psychology News -- Week of October 26, 2008

AWARDS

- Rachel Keen will be awarded an Honorary Degree (honoris causa) from Uppsala University in Sweden on January 23, 2009. At the ceremony in Uppsala, she will be crowned with laurel and be given a golden ring.
- Charlotte Patterson has been selected to receive the APA 2009 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy.

MEDIA MENTION

On October 20th, the front page of Daily Progress had a story on Arthur Schulman and his recently published book *Websterisms: A Collection of Words and Definitions Set Forth by the Founding Father of American English.*


FACULTY PROFILES

We continue with our series: **If you were not a psychologist, what would you be?**

**Alev Erisir:** Ok, no laughing. All through medical school, all I wanted to be was a cinematographer, ala Sven Nykvist. I liked photography, isolating patterns in the nature, and playing with light to please the eye. I ended up to be a microscopist, working on fine structure of visual brain. Come to think of it, I suppose I didn't fall too far.

**Dick Reppucci:** When I left high school, I thought a high school teacher of history would suit me well and then progress to an educational administrator such as a principal. When I left college I was confused, but thought I might like to be a psychologist in advertising—the book, *The Hidden Persuaders*, had made an impact. Another possibility was to become a lawyer. However, I was accepted into an interdisciplinary program in social relations with an emphasis in clinical psychology. By the end of that sojourn, I wanted to be a university professor, and I am. In my wildest dreams, however, I really want(ed) to be a best-selling novelist, but I don't expect that will ever happen.

**Melvin Wilson:** Although my high school counselor was forever pushing me toward psychology or some other social science major, I was intent on majoring in chemistry in college. The earning potential for a person with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry was very good and earning a lot of money was important to me in those days. I worked as an undergraduate assistant in the Chemistry Department Supply and Storage Room which meant I was in charge of dispensing chemicals and supplies for the Chemistry Lab. Once, while I was working in the Chemical Supply Room, I thought I devised this rather ingenious cleaning agent. Well, I tried testing my cleaning agent on some dirty test tubes. BOOM!!! A chemical explosion occurred with some of the chemicals sprayed in my face and eyes. Well, the commotion that
followed including a rather embarrassing emergency shower caused me to rethink my career choice. It
turned out that I had mixed sulfuric acid with some other acid which had a very long and, now, forgotten
name. After my wonderful adventure in chemistry, I decided that there were fewer accidents in studying
psychology and plus it was rather interesting. Shortly thereafter, I declared a psychology as my college
major. Although I have not made a lot of money, I have had a thoroughly exciting adventure in
psychology.

Vikram Jaswal: If I had not gone into psychology, I guess I would have been a newspaper reporter--I've
always enjoyed putting together a good story, trying to figure out the best way to convey the relevant
information. But then I realized that journalists are constantly working under a tight deadline, moving
from project to project. So I found my way to psychology, where I can still try to tell a good story, but
where most deadlines are self-imposed, and a project can go on as long as you want (which of course
turns out to be both a blessing and a curse!).

INTERVIEW
We interviewed Oth Tran, the President of University Psychological Society.

-- When was Psych Society founded?
O.T.: The Psychological Society was founded in the fall of 2006. Professor James Freeman has been our
faculty advisor. The society has been more active in the past year.

-- How many members do you have today?
O.T.: We have 330 members total. Members include current psychology and non-psychology students
and alumni.

-- What are the main goals of the Psych Society?
O.T.: We want to provide students who are interested in psychology with resources to learn more about
interesting topics in psychology, to be knowledgeable of career or internship opportunities related to
psychology, and to network with professors and other like-minded students.

-- What kinds of events does the Society organize?
O.T.: We have hosted a psychology major alumni panel, graduate school workshops, Q&A sessions about
psychology classes and double-majoring with psychology, interactive forums on diverse psychological
topics, and much more. Professor John Bonvillian has served as a guest speaker on our graduate school
workshops for the past two semesters. In this upcoming month, we are planning to host a discussion
section led by Jesse Graham, a graduate student, on the morality of conservative and liberal voters, and
a psychology internship and career workshop led by a University Career Services counselor.

-- If you could wish for one thing for the Society, what would that be?
O.T.: We would love to have faculty members be more involved with our organization as guest speakers.
EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, October 27, 2008

- Dissertation Proposal, 11:30 am, Gilmer B002
  Michael Schutz, *Cross-modal integration: The search for unity*

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Robyn Konrad, *Being Close Is Not Enough: Young Children's Sensitivity to the Extent of Informant Error*

- Colloquium: 3:30pm, GIL 190
  Melvyn Goodale, University of Western Ontario, *Acting Without Thinking: When Do Visually-guided Actions Escape Conscious Control?*

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

- Community Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Jerome Short, George Mason University, *Psychological Fitness & Mental Health Promotion in Communities*

- Social Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Minkyung Koo

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

- Sensory and Systems Neuroscience Lunch: 12:30pm-2pm, GIL B001
  Wendy Lynch, PhD, Department of Psychiatric Medicine, University of Virginia Health System, *Examining Gender-based Differences in Addiction*

- Reading and Book Signing, New Dominion Bookshop on the Downtown Mall, 5:30pm
  Arthur Schulman, *Websterisms: A Collection of Words and Definitions Set Forth by the Founding Father of American English*

Thursday, October 30, 2008

- Quantitative Area Lunch (DADA): 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Ellen Bass and Matthew Bolton, University of Virginia, Department of Systems and Information Engineering

Friday, October 31, 2008

- Dissertation Proposal, 10am, Gilmer 107B
  Nell Manning, *Convergence and divergence of attachment and emotion regulation during adolescence*

- Curry Education Research Lectureship Series: 11am-12pm, Ruffner Auditorium (G004 on the Ground Floor)
  Dan Goldhaber, PhD, University of Washington, *Is It Just A Bad Class? Assessing the Stability of Value-Added Measures of Teacher Effectiveness*
Clinical Lunch: 12pm, GIL 225
  Carol Manning, PhD, *Academic Careers as a Psychologist in a Medical Center*

Cognitive Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Gary Hatfield, PhD, Adam Seybert Professor in Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, *Getting Objects for Free*

Philosophy Department Talk, 4:00-5:30 Cocke Hall, Gibson Room
  Gary Hatfield, PhD, Adam Seybert Professor in Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, *Descartes’ Mechanization of the Sensory Soul*